GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2030
ANSWERED ON:19.08.2013
RELAXATION IN FIRE SAFETY NORMS
Ponnam Shri Prabhakar

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has relaxed fire safety norms for high-rise buildings as recommended by Kasturirangan Committee in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN)

(a)to (c) Based on the recommendations of Dr. K. Kasturirangan Committee, it may not be practically feasible for all States to follow uniform norms for fire safety of High-rise Buildings and a flexible approach is called for given the variations across States and, within a given State, across local bodies in terms of population, density, pressure on land, etc.

Accordingly Ministry has issued an OM dated June 6, 2013 as per which the linking of the minimum width of the road with the height of the building shall be appropriately built in to the rules/ regulations by the State Governments/ Local Bodies under appropriate acts / legislations taking into account local requirements and circumstances.

On the issue of location of fire stations, primarily, it shall be the responsibility of the owner / occupier of the building to provide for adequate fire protection measures as envisaged under the National Building Code of India or the relevant State Act. This may be strictly enforced by the State Governments while issuing NOC in respect of fire safety. The State Governments need to provide for required fire service infrastructure to ensure that, in case of fire in a building, the fire tenders are able to reach the site in time, say within 10 minutes of the incident in urban areas. The State Governments should formulate action plans to ensure development of such infrastructure in a time bound manner.